



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Food and Agriculture
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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture Order of Poultry Importation Ban Extended to Nevada and Arizona

Whereas, a serious avian disease known as Exotic Newcastle Disease was first diagnosed in backyard poultry in Los Angeles County, California in September of 2002, and

Whereas, the disease was subsequently confirmed in birds in commercial egg-laying facilities in California since mid-December, 2002, and

Whereas, control efforts have not yet been successful in eliminating the disease in California birds, and

Whereas, the disease was confirmed in a flock of backyard poultry in Nevada on January 16, 2003, and

Whereas, the disease was confirmed in a flock of backyard poultry on the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation located in La Paz County in western Arizona on February 4, 2003, and

Whereas, the virus which causes the disease is highly contagious, and is readily spread by contact with infected birds or materials contaminated with the causative virus, and

Whereas, all types of birds including domestic, wild and caged or pet birds are susceptible, and

Whereas domestic poultry and hatching eggs enter the Commonwealth on a regular basis in the ordinary course of business, and

Whereas, the occurrence of such disease in the Commonwealth could create havoc in the marketplace,

Now, therefore, under the General Laws of Massachusetts Chapter 129. Livestock Disease Control. Section 2, which permits the Director to make reasonable orders for the prevention, suppression and extirpation of contagious diseases of domestic animals, until further notice the following import restrictions are placed in effect for Massachusetts effective immediately:

No person shall import poultry, including game birds, or hatching eggs from California, Nevada or Arizona, or that have transited through California, Nevada or Arizona, and

No person shall import birds customarily used for household pets from California, Nevada or Arizona, or that have transited through California, Nevada or Arizona.

February 5, 2003
Dr. David M. Sherman
Chief, Bureau of Animal Health